

REMARKS

Continued prosecution and reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the discussion that follows.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended.

Claims 1-7 and 9-12 are in the case and are before the Examiner.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants enclose references cited in the specification and attach a 1449 Form. Applicants request that these references be made of record and cited in the pending application.

II. The Amendments

As suggested by the Examiner, the abstract and Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been amended to correct informalities. Further, language has been added to the specification at lines 5-8 of page 7 to enable Claim 10. Support for this amendment to the specification is found in originally filed Claim 10. It is thus seen that no new matter has been added.

As suggested by the Examiner, Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Further, Claims 10-11 have been amended to depend upon rewritten Claim 9.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Examiner states that Claims 1-7 are allowable and that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. In response, Claim 9 has been amended to properly include all the limitations

of base claim 8 (cancelled). Since Claims 10-11 have been amended to depend upon Claim 9 and Examiner states that Claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten, then Claims 10-11 should also be allowable since they now depend upon an amended Claim 9. Further, since Claim 12 depends upon Claim 11 and Examiner states that Claim 11 is allowable if depending upon rewritten Claim 9, then Claim 12 should also be allowable since it now depends upon amended Claim 11. Therefore, the allowance of Claims 1-7, 9-12 is believed to be in order and such action is earnestly solicited.

SUMMARY

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

A fee of \$110 is believed to be necessary for a one month extension to the reply and is enclosed. The Examiner is requested to phone the undersigned should any questions arise that can be dealt with over the phone and expedite this prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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By




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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Reply and Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on March 6, 2003.



Indira Saladi, Esq.